(b) if so, whether the experts have conducted independent studies and warned an World Bank's considerable exposure in India;

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) what further steps Government contemplate in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (d) The News Item refers to an Independent study commissioned by Government of India on IDA assistance to India. The study has indicated that the World Bank's exposure to India will be adversely affected if the bond of concessional and non-concessional lending is hardened by increasing the percentage share of non-concessional loans. It has further indicated the need for more concessional assistance to India. This matter has been taken up by the Government of India both with bilateral donors and multilateral Institutions.

Melting the 25 paise coins

95. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a press newsitem captioned "A 25 paise coin that costs Rs. 8" as reported in the 'Indian Express' of 26th January, 1993;

(b) if so, whether the Reserve Bank of India has re-melted the entire consignment of 25 paise coins dumped in the Reserve Bank of India vaults in Nagpur;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) who is responsible for this colossal Wastage; and

(e) what steps Government contemplate in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the average cost of 25 paise cupro-nickel coin when it was still being produced till April, 1991 was approx. 50 paise, but not Rs. 8 as reported in the newsitem.

(b) and (c) Since the intrinsic value of the 25 paise cupro-nickel coin was more than the face value, it was decided by the Government in April, 1991, on the recommendations of RBI, to withdraw the cupro-nickel 25 paise coins lying with the various Banks for deposit with the Government Mints for remelting.

(d) There has not been any major waste as this remelted material has since been used for miniting coins of higher enominations.

(e) Because of increasing cost of copper and nickel, it has been decided by the Government to use only stainless steel for coins in the denomination of 10 paise, 25 paise, 50 paise and Re. 1.

Report of Customer Service Committee

96. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the customer Service Committee has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the details of its recommendations; and

(c) what steps are being taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) constituted a Committee in September, 1990 under the Chairmanship of Sh. M. N. Goiporia, the then Chairman, State Bank of India to study the